

Home and Community-Based Options Waiver Registry

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MARYLAND
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Home and Community-Based Options Waiver

- The Home and Community-Based Options Waiver is an optional program authorized under a 1915(c) waiver by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that provides home and community-based services (HCBS) to older adults and people with physical disabilities
- A waiver program allows the State to have flexibility with eligibility rules and services not available under a State Plan, but must remain cost effective (compared with the cost of services in an institution)
- The waiver expands access to individuals who are medically eligible for nursing facility services but are not financially eligible for Medicaid in the community
- The program currently serves 4,265 participants

Home and Community-Based Options Waiver

- Individuals living in institutions with services paid for by Long Term Care Medicaid for at least thirty days may apply to the program at any time, but the program is currently closed to community applicants
- Interested individuals who live in the community may place their name on a registry of over 20,000 people to wait for an opportunity to apply for services
- Because applications are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, individuals who registered in 2012 are currently being offered applications
 - This may not allow access to services for individuals with the greatest need

Waiver Registry Solution

- As a solution, the Department is redesigning the registry system to provide quicker access to HCBS by prioritizing invitations to those most at risk for institutionalization
 - Risk of institutionalization is determined by the screening tool completed by Maryland Access Point (MAP) sites
 - The following characteristics are associated with an increased risk of institutionalization
 - Amount of assistance needed with ADLs and IADLs;
 - Diagnosis of chronic conditions;
 - Unstable living arrangements;
 - Inadequate informal supports
 - Increased age

Waiver Registry Solution

- Once complete, these efforts will:
 - Reduce the wait time for those most at risk for institutional placement
 - Increase the response to applications due to reduced wait time
 - Increase the number of people served through the waiver each year
 - More effectively divert people from costly and disruptive institutional stays

Waiver Registry Solution Timeline

- Progress towards prioritizing the registry
 - 2016 – 2017: Screened existing registry
 - 2018: Analyzed screening data to develop risk scores and algorithm to rank people by their relative risk for institutionalization
 - Reviewed analysis with Community Options Advisory Council and incorporated public input
 - 2018: began requirements for necessary data system changes
 - April 2019: engaged MDoA in training MAP sites on changes to prioritization of the registry
 - May 2019: Draft waiver amendment discussed with the Community Options Advisory Council and posted for public comment
 - June 2019: Waiver amendment submitted to CMS

Waiver Registry Solution Timeline

- To be completed:
 - July – September 2019:
 - Send letters to individuals on the registry to notify them of the changes and the need for a screen, if they do not already have one
 - On-going training with MAP sites
 - September 2019: changes to LTSSMaryland tracking system go live
 - October 1, 2019: anticipated implementation, pending CMS approval
 - 80% of invitations will be sent based on risk
 - 20% of invitations will continue to be sent based on time on the registry